

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Applicants' undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Stein and Mr. George Eng for their courtesy in participating in a telephonic interview with applicants' attorney. This interview took place on March 8, 2006, and at that time we discussed the possibility of amending the claims in the manner outlined in our letter dated March 1, 2006, addressed to Examiner Julie E. Stein. Applicants have decided to submit the attached Declaration Under 37 CFR § 1.131 to establish that their date of invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims was prior to the effective date of the primary reference cited in the Office Action, i.e., the document by Biacs et al. The attached declaration is accompanied by a proposal document, which has been redacted by applicants' attorney in order to remove unnecessary information, such as customer/vendor names and pricing and business-related information that is not pertinent to the claimed subject matter.

The examiner is respectfully urged to carefully review the attached declaration, which is signed by one of the co-inventors of the present application, Robert J. Anderson, and to withdraw the rejections based on Biacs et al. Should the examiner for any reason feel that the declaration is insufficient, or that additional information is required, she is respectfully encouraged to call applicants' undersigned attorney at 206.332.1384.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance for claims 1-20 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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